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SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HEREWITH FULL TEXT BRIAN EADS BYLINER WASHINGTON POST SEPTEMBER 17 HEADED "U.S. CRITICIZED ON HANOI POLICY."

2. BANGKOK, THAILAND, SEPT. 16 -- DIPLOMATS AND HANOI-WATCHERS HERE UNDERSTAND WHY THE UNITED STATES IS CONSISTENTLY REBUFFING VIETNAM.S DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES, BUT THEY SEE THE POLICY AS SHORT-SIGHTED AND HARMFUL TO THE INTERESTS OF ALL CONCERNED.

3. HANOI IS SAID TO BE JUST AS EAGER AS ITS NEIGHBORS ARE TO MAKE SURE THAT VIETNAM DOES NOT COME TO DEPEND TOO HEAVILY ON THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE FOR ECONOMIC AID AND THE POLITICAL DEBTS IT CREATES.

4. OBSERVERS HERE AGREE THAT THE LAST ,ANIFESTATION OF CONTINUING AMERICAN HOSTILITY, THE THREAT TO VETO VIETNAM.S APPLICATION FOR UNITED NATIONS MEMBERSHIP
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SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED.

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5. "AFTER ALL," SAID ONE ASIAN OBSERVER, "THERE ARE

NO VOTES IN HANDING OVER MONEY TO A COUNTRY THAT HAS JUST HUMILIATED YOU" -- A REFERENCE TO U.S. REFUSAL TO PAY THE $3.25 BILLION PLEDGED IN THE PARIS ACCORDS.

6. NONETHELESS, THE MOVE WAS ESPECIALLY DISCOMFORTING FOR MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS, WHICH CANNOT AFFORD TO IGNORE THE REALITY OF A COMMUNIST VIETNAM.

7. THAILAND, INFORMED SOURCES HERE SAY, HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN SEEING VIETNAM JOIN REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL BODIES. "THE THAIS WANT VIETNAM TO HAVE AS MANY OPTIONS AS POSSIBLE," SAID A FOREIGN MINISTRY INSIDER, "AND ONE DOOR HAS JUST BEEN SLAMMED IN THEIR FACE."

8. EVEN INDONESIA AND SINGAPORE, SEEN AS THE MOST ANTI-COMMUNIST MEMBERS OF ASEAN, ARE SAID TO BE ANNOYED AT THE U.S. VETO THREAT.

9. AT THE SAME TIME, OBSERVERS HERE SAY, HANOI HAS GONE OUT OF ITS WAY TO SHOW ITSELF ACCOMMODATING TO ITS NON-COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS AS WELL AS MAKING SUCH GESTURES TOWARD THE UNITED STATES AS RELEASING U.S. CITIZENS FROM SAIGON, HANDING OVER THE NAMES OF 12 AMERICANS LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION AND OFFERING TO MEET THE UNITED STATES FOR TALKS ON REMAINING ISSUES OUTSTANDING.

10. HANOI.S EAGERNESS FOR WESTERN INVOLVEMENT, SOURCES HERE SAY, STEMS FROM THE HIGH LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGICAL EXPERTISE THE UNITED STATES CAN OFFER.

11. "U.S. OILMEN WANT TO GET BACK" INTO VIETNAM "TO 9ECOUP THEIR INVESTMENT," SAID A WESTERN DIPLOMAT, AND THE VIETNAMESE WANT THEM BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE KNOW-HOW AND DATA THAT WOULD BE EXPENSIVE TO GATHER AGAIN, UNCLASSIFIED

IF INDEED IT COULD BE.

12. "THE JAPANESE ARE MOVING IN VERY FAST," HE ADDED, "AND U.S. BUSINESS IS MISSING OUT ON THE OPPORTUNITIES. VIETNA, IS GOING TO BE A THRIVING CONCERN IN THE YEARS TO COME."

13. FEW OBSERVERS HERE THINK THAT HANOI EXPECTS TO

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GET ALL OF THE $3.25 BILLION AGREED ON IN PARIS IN
1973, BUT FEW SEE THE VIETNAMESE AS WILLING TO DROP THE
ISSUE. WHAT SOURCES HERE EXPECT ARE DISCREET CONTACTS

LATER IN THE YEAR, WHEN A DOLLARS-FOR-NAMES ARRANGEMENT
MIGHT BE WORKED OUT.

14. U.S. SOURCES WERE UNEQUIVOCAL IN SAYING THAT NO
MATTER HOW THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION COMES OUT,
THE MIAS ISSUE WOULD REMAIN PARAMOUNT, BUT FEW OTHERS
SHOWED SYMPATHY FOR THE AMERICAN POSITION. END TEXT.
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